

REMARKS

Claims 23-44 remain pending after amendment.

Claim Amendments

Claims 23 and 24 are amended to delete various recited ranges. Claim 32 is amended to recite the definition which resides at page 43 of the specification. Claim 38 is amended to recite the optional presence of a thermoplastic polymer, support for which resides at page 38, lines 19-23. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of the subject matter of claims 24, 25-38 and 42-44. However, based on the above amendments, it is believed that all pending claims are directed to allowable subject matter.

Objections to Claims

The Examiner objects to claim 32 as not defining the symbol η . In response, claim 32 is amended to define the symbol η as being representative of "intrinsic viscosity" consistent with the disclosure at page 43 of the specification. The objection is thus moot and should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 112 (paragraph two)

Claims 23 and 39-41 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 (paragraph two) as not distinctly claiming the invention. This rejection respectfully is traversed to the extent deemed to apply to the claims as amended.

In response, claims 23 and 24 are amended to delete one of the objectionable ranges. Claim 38 is amended to provide for the optional presence of a thermoplastic polymer. The rejection is thus now without basis and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early indication of same is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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